



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

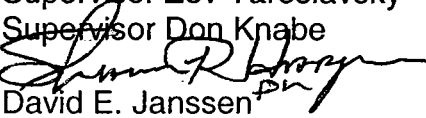
YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

April 25, 2006

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
From: 
David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

AB 2297 (Ruskin), as amended on April 6, 2006, would amend the Food and Agricultural Code to require the appropriation of \$16 million for local high-risk pest exclusion activities, and the development of work plans for the exclusion of high-risk pests by the State Department of Food and Agriculture (SDFA) in conjunction with county agricultural commissioners, and in consultation with affected industry representatives.

The Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures (ACWM) indicates that in FY 2004-05, SDFA reduced funding for local high-risk pest exclusion activities by shifting \$4 million to State border stations. As a consequence, funding for Los Angeles County was reduced from \$1.5 million to \$272,000, an 82 percent reduction.

ACWM indicates that its current level of State funding is only sufficient to cover inspection activities at Los Angeles International Airport and inspection of nursery stock transported from Florida. While these two pathways represent the highest risk of exotic pest introductions for the County and California, there is no funding for the inspection of other high-risk pest introduction pathways, such as FedEx, UPS, U.S. Postal Service facilities, sea freight, specialty markets and swap meets. Recent pest detections in some urban/residential areas suggest that pest introductions are occurring through

non-commercial shipments, an area that is currently not inspected due to lack of adequate funding. Additionally, ACWM indicates that an appropriate level of funding would help to reduce the chance of introduction of devastating pests such as the Mediterranean fruit fly and the newly arrived glassy-winged sharpshooter, which transmits grapevine-killing bacteria that could have potential devastating effects for California's wine industry.

ACWM recommends support for AB 2297 because adequate funding for pest exclusion would assist in preventing the spread of newly arrived pests and/or the introduction of invasive species from outside the State, and we concur. Support for AB 2297 is consistent with Board policy to support increases in State and industry funding for pest detection, exclusion, and eradication. **Therefore our Sacramento advocates will support AB 2297.** AB 2297 is supported by the California Agricultural Commissioner's and Sealer's Association. There is no registered opposition. AB 2297 is currently in the Assembly Committee on Agriculture where it awaits a hearing.

SB 1848 (Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development), as introduced on March 23, 2006, is an urgency measure that would repeal the sunset date of July 1, 2006 of the Business and Professions Code that authorizes the Los Angeles County Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures (ACWM) and the Orange County Agricultural Commissioner to charge a \$5 fee for each structural fumigation conducted.

According to ACWM, the money collected from this fee funds inspections and oversight of the fumigation industry. Since 1994, ACWM and the Orange County Agricultural Commissioner have participated in the Structural Fumigation Inspection Program (SFIP) which was developed in cooperation with the Pest Control Operators of California. ACWM indicates that SFIP has been a model of cooperation between industry and government, and the funding generated by the fee has significantly increased the number of inspections per year in Los Angeles County.

Additionally, ACWM indicates that prior to the implementation of the SFIP, Los Angeles County had 29 fumigation-related deaths. Since the program started in 1994, there have only been four fumigation-related deaths, and none since December 1999. The SFIP has raised the level of enforcement, making managers and employees of structural pest control companies more aware of their actions in insuring the safe use of pesticides. Through increased surveillance and enforcement of safety standards, health risks to workers and residents associated with improper use of these lethal fumigants have been significantly reduced, providing greatly increased protection to the general public, pest control operators, and the environment.

ACWM recommends support for SB 1848 because the fees fund a program that enhances fumigation safety, and we concur. Support for SB 1848 is consistent with Board policy to support funding to regulate pesticides, to protect food and crops, and to

ensure the safety of workers, the public and the quality of the environment. **Therefore, our Sacramento advocates will support SB 1848.** SB 1848 is supported by the Pest Control Operators of California and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation. There is no registered opposition. The bill is awaiting a hearing date before the Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development.

Status of County-Interest Legislation

County-supported AB 2836 (Karnette), which would require fire sprinklers in certain residential care facilities, was approved by the Assembly Governmental Organization Committee on a vote of 11 to 1, on Wednesday, April 19, 2006. Amendments were discussed that would, effectively, limit the bill to facilities with four to six residents; allow costs to be charged to renters; possibly limit the bill's application to new construction; and to exempt high-rise facilities. The measure now proceeds to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

County-sponsored AB 2870 (De La Torre), which would authorize the testing of defendants, who assault prosecutors and public defenders, for communicable diseases, was approved by the Assembly Public Safety Committee on its consent calendar on April 18, 2006. The measure proceeds to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

County-supported SB 1323 (Cedillo), which would provide \$350,000 in State funding over five years for a probation officer in a prototype mental health court in Los Angeles County, passed the Senate Health Committee on April 19, 2006 by a vote of 5 to 4, and it now proceeds to the Senate Committee on Public Safety for a hearing on May 2, 2006.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK
MAL:JF:IGR:cc

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist
Local 660
Coalition of County Unions
California Contract Cities Association
Independent Cities Association
League of California Cities
City Managers Associations
Buddy Program Participants